

INJURY PREVENTION NEWS

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Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Passes Primary Seatbelt and Child Restraint

Law

By Becky Hunkup



Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Council Members: (from front left) Carol Wyatt, Diana Crutcher-Smith, Carol Pinto, Joe Abbie, (back row) Daryl Gardipe, Corrine Racine, Arlan Melendez, Dave Hunkup, not pictured: Henrietta Tobey.

Over the past decade the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) and Hungry Valley residents have suffered tragic loss of life due to motor vehicle crashes and nonuse of restraints in those crashes. Recognizing that the use of seat belts and child restraints are proven methods to reduce the risk of injury or death in a crash, the RSIC Injury Prevention Coalition embarked on a campaign to introduce a restraint law. On November 14, 2001 the RSIC Tribal Council passed a primary (or "standard") child restraint and seat belt law for the RSIC and Hungry Valley. Children five years of age or younger, or less than 60 pounds, and children six years of age or older, or 60 pounds, must be properly secured in a child passenger restraint device which meets the standard prescribed, or face a penalty. Penalties are as follows: First offense: \$100.00, Second offense: \$200.00, Third offense/ Subsequent offense: \$300.00.

The seatbelt law applies to any person driving a vehicle and any vehicle passenger five (5) years of age or older or

over 60 pounds. A citation will be issued to any driver and to any passenger who fails to wear a safety belt. If the passenger is a child six (6) years of age or older, over 60 pounds, the citation will be issued to the driver for failure to require that the child wear a safety belt. Penalties are as follows: First offense - \$35.00, Second offense- \$50.00, Third and subsequent offense - \$100.00. All penalties require attendance to a short injury prevention course provided by the Tribal Injury Prevention Coordinator.

In addition to the new restraint laws, a pedestrian law which requires the use of an existing overhead crosswalk, and a primary helmet law for bicyclists, riders of non-motorized scooters and skateboards, were passed. Last, but not least, the Tribal Council addressed the DUI law. They lowered the blood alcohol content (BAC) to .08 and for underage drinkers to .02 BAC.

A transition period will last from now until March 1, 2002, in which the Tribal Police Department will not issue citations, but will provide information regarding the new laws. The RSIC Injury Prevention Coalition will host events and an educational campaign to increase awareness of the new laws during the transition period. Special thanks go to the RSIC Injury Prevention Coalition Members: Tribal Council member Dave Hunkup (2001 Level I Introduction to Injury Prevention Participant) & Tribal Council member, Daryl (Doug) Gardipe, Chief of Tribal Police, Michael Sexton, Duane Masters Sr. (2001 Level I Introduction to Injury Prevention Participant), Ordinance Coordinator Ivy Bryan-Pulido, Indian Health Service Injury Prevention Coordinator, Holly Billie, and RSIC Injury Prevention Coordinator Becky Hunkup who worked diligently on this initiative.

It has been a busy year for the Injury Prevention Program on Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. Thanks to all the people involved with this program.



In this Issue

Primary Seatbelt Law Passed	1
In the Spotlight, Washoe HDST	2
IP Awards	3
Ute Tribe Checkup	4
Head Start/Day Care Project	5
Holiday Safety Alert	6

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By Holly Billie - The Reno Office of Environmental Health welcomed Andrea Horn in October. Andrea is the new Environmental Health Officer for Schurz Service Unit and Owens Valley. Dillingham, Alaska, is the place Andrea called home before moving to Reno. She worked as an Environmental Health Officer for the Bristol Bay Health Corporation for 5 years.

Andrea attended Illinois State University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Health in 1996. A COSTEP summer internship took her to the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota. She is a Registered Sanitarian through the National Environmental Health Association and is experienced in food-borne illness investigations, rabies investigations, surveys for food, water, wastewater, and institutional surveys. She received the John C. Eason Award for developing a Paralytic Shellfish Monitoring program and coordinating a botulism video with the Centers for Disease Control.

When not hard at work you may find Andrea kayaking, cross country skiing,

vacationing, spending time with friends and family or watching the St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium. Some interesting facts about Andrea: biggest fish ever caught—27 lb. King Salmon, best concert ever seen—Tom Petty at the Seattle Gorge, worst concert ever seen—Milli Vanilli.

Andrea is looking forward to working with the tribes in Nevada and Owens Valley, California.

Washoe Head Start Safety Activities

By Gail Brown



Washoe Head Start Bike rodeo participants

September and October were safety months for the Washoe Tribe Head Start. Saturday, September 22, 2001, the Dresslerville Head Start hosted a mini safety rodeo. There was car seat safety, school bus safety, and bicycle safety. After all the safety training there was a bike rodeo with three stations. Kaila Miller was the first place winner of a new bicycle, which was donated by Michael Brown of Carson City, Nevada. Second place went to Kali Sargent and she won bicycle safety gear, which was donated by Rachele Eisenhour, a Head Start parent. Third place went to Head Start graduate Amity Garfield and she won a bicycle safety helmet. All children did a great job and the day was a fun time for all involved.

Awards Presented To Friends of Injury



Prevention By Holly Billie



The goal of the Indian Health Service Injury Prevention Program is to reduce injuries among Native Americans. With few Injury Prevention staff it is difficult for IHS to achieve this goal completely on it's own. It is collaboration with tribal programs, state and local organizations, and community members, where great strides can be made in accomplishing this goal.

The Reno District recognizes individuals whose efforts in preventing injuries are commendable and praiseworthy with a *Friend of Injury Prevention* award. Below are the recipients of this award for 2001.

Virginia Howard, Health Educator, Owyhee, NV— Virginia incorporated injury prevention into wellness activities for the community of Owyhee, Nevada, by coordinating a successful child safety seat clinic. Ms. Howard



recruited volunteers, arranged for volunteers to be trained in child passenger safety, and authored a grant to obtain 40 child safety seats. Ms. Howard also conducted a successful bicycle rodeo and contributed to the local Sho-Pai News and Injury Prevention News on a regular basis. Ms. Howard's enthusiasm and willingness to go the extra mile have been rewarded

with successful events.

Carl Willis, Maintenance Supervisor, Bishop, CA—

Carl conducted seatbelt and child restraint use surveys. He helped to organize child passenger safety training for Toiyabe staff, and worked closely with the local Head Start and day care facility to increase parents' awareness on the dangers of not using child restraints. Carl's efforts resulted in a 40%-60% increase in child restraint use among the Head Start and day care children over a two-month period. Carl is also collecting injury data to identify injury trends for his community and working to organize an injury prevention coalition.



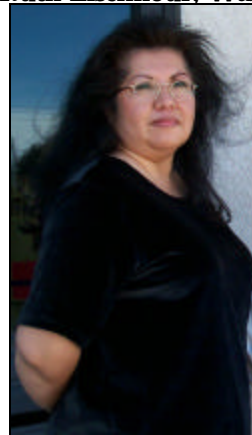
Rocky Gonzalez, Nevada Highway Trooper, Elko, NV—

Mr. Gonzalez is a certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician who provided expertise in CPS by



serving as a senior checker at several tribal car seat checkups. Checkups held at the Owyhee Reservation and Elko Indian Colony involved correctly installing child seats for 57 children. His willingness to travel to tribal communities and provide service with a great attitude are commendable.

Ruth Eisenhour, Washoe Head Start, Garnerville, NV—

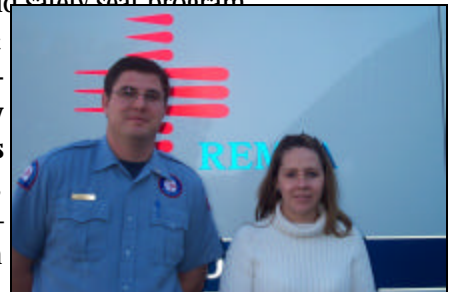


Ruth has made a great effort in utilizing the Injury Prevention Training Program by incorporating knowledge received in the training courses to enhance Head Start's excellent safety program. Ruth coordinated staff to attend Preventing Childhood Injuries training and the one-day child passenger safety training then proceeded to ensure Washoe Head Start had proper child restraints in its busses. Ruth has

been instrumental in the success of the Sleep Safe program and took the initiative to find a home for the Washoe Tribe's child safety seat program.

Eric Guevin & Kristi Smith, Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority, Reno, NV—

Since IHS began working with REMSA in 1998, Kristi and Eric have



been willing to assist IHS staff in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the Injury Prevention Program. Kristi and Eric have been resourceful in getting IHS and tribes in touch with local resources, willing to participate in child seat checkpoints on the reservations or colonies, teaching at IHS sponsored training, helping to keep up the skills of the Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technicians and Inspectors in our program, and keeping us apprised of REMSA's CPS activities. Their willingness to contribute to the Native American communities in Washoe County is greatly appreciated. (continued on page 5)

Ute Tribe Holds Child Safety Seat Checkup

By Dave Cramer



According to the Utah Highway Patrol, 98% of child safety seats in the state are installed incorrectly. This is a frightening statistic meaning that most kids are traveling at highway speeds virtually unprotected. To help parents improve their use of seats, the Ute Tribe Highway Safety Coalition sponsored a child safety seat checkup in the Bottle Hollow parking lot on Saturday, October 20th in



Utah Safe Kids Coalition member helps a very important client

Ft. Duchesne. During the three-hour event, state certified technicians checked seats for recalls, defects and proper installation. In all, seventeen families were assisted. Of the seats inspected, one was on the manufacturer's recall list, another had been in a crash, and all but one required some type of adjustment. Several families arrived with children needing seats including one expectant mother. Half of the seats provided to families were booster seats for children over 40 lbs. "Many parents think that once a child outgrows their infant or toddler seat, they're going to be OK in a seat belt," said Technician Teresa Shields of the IHS. "But the fact is that children need to be in booster seats until they reach 80 lbs. Seat Belts are designed for adults, and unless the belt fits squarely across the hips and shoulder, severe internal injuries could result in the event of a crash." New seats were donated by the Utah Governor's Office of Highway Safety and Ford Motor Company's Boost America Program.

The checkup was a multi-agency event with volunteers from the Ute Tribe, BIA, IHS, Tri-County Health Department and the Women Infants and Children Pro-

gram. The Utah Safe Kids Coalition brought their buckle up van from Salt Lake City, and Injury Prevention Specialist Holly Billie traveled from Reno, Nevada to serve as the senior checker during the event. The fact that people came from as far as Salt Lake City and Reno appeared to underscore the importance the volunteers placed on helping parents with their seats. "I think we really did some good here today," said Joe La Framboise the Ute Tribe Health Education Specialist. "It's clear that parents need the help. No one at the store shows you how to install the seat when you buy it, and the instructions can be pretty complicated." Ute Petroleum also participated by serving free hot dogs to parents, kids and volunteers. Parents appeared genuinely grateful that perfect strangers were spending their Saturday helping to ensure their child's safety. When asked why she was helping out at her second checkup, volunteer Marlo Root of the IHS Health Center replied, "I have two little girls myself, and I know how important it is to make sure all



Volunteers inspect a child safety seat

children are buckled up safely."

The Ute Tribe Highway Safety Coalition will hold more checkup events in the future and will participate in child safety seat

checkups sponsored by other organizations throughout the Uintah Basin. However, parents can continue to have their seats checked between 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM at the WIC Clinic in Ft. Duchesne or by setting up an appointment with the IHS Office of Environmental Health at 722-5122 ext. 6880.



Ute Tribe child safety seat checkup volunteers



Head Start and Day Care Child Passenger Safety Project

By Debi Meek



The greatest threat to Native Americans today is being injured or killed in a motor vehicle crash. Injuries from motor vehicle crashes are the 2nd leading cause of death for Native American children ages 19. Observational restraint surveys in the previous year on reservations and colonies in the Reno District reveals that less than 30% of observed children are restrained in child safety seats, and surveys conducted at Head Start Centers show less than 10% of parents and students buckle up.

While IHS and some Tribal Clinics distribute child safety seats to parents of infant children, such programs typically do not address the occupant protection needs of



Parents of Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Head Start students attend child passenger safety training.

children 3-5 years of age. Children 3-5 years of age have unique occupant protection needs and it is the purpose of this project to address those needs.

Keeping our Head Start children safe while traveling is the focus of this year's Reno District Injury Prevention Project. Head Start students in the communities of Fort Duchesne, Elko, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Wadsworth, Walker River, and Lovelock were selected to participate. Head Start Centers were selected if a bus/van was not available for transporting students. Day Care Centers in Fort Duchesne and Bishop were also selected for this project based on bus/van availability.

The goal of this project is to increase car seat and booster seat use to 50% among children 3-5 years of age in selected Head Start centers by May 2002.

The project components are child safety seat use observations, providing student training with the Buckle Bear

Program, parent training, staff training, and child safety seats for these Head Start students.

Results of this community-based intervention will be reported to Tribes, Head Start and Day Care staff, *Injury Prevention News*, tribal newsletters/newspapers and other interested programs.

.....Friends of Injury Prevention

Continued from page 3



Ute Tribe Head Start—(from front left) Darleena King, Dave Cramer, Marge Galley. Back row (from left) Chastity Navanick, Karen Steel, Leslie Freeman, and Hazel Blackhair.

Ute Tribe Head Start Staff, Fort Duchesne, UT –The Sleep Safe Program for Head Start is one where homes are made safer for children by installing smoke detectors. The following people worked on the Sleep Safe project and did an outstanding job implementing and conducting the project. **Marge Galley** - attended the Sleep Safe workshop in Albuquerque and acted as a point of contact for the project. **Leslie Freeman** - coordinated distribution and accounting of smoke detectors, and compiled the results of the project. **Kathy Reel** - supervised the home advocates and made sure that the detectors were installed correctly and home surveys were completed in a timely manner.

The following are the home advocates who did the hard work of going to homes, conducting the surveys and installing the detectors: **Hazel Blackhair, Chastity Navanick, Debra Penningjack, Misty Wilson, Karen Steel, and Darleena King**. Ute Tribe Head Start's efforts to provide a safe environment for the children of Fort Duchesne are commendable and praiseworthy.



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Holiday Safety Alert

CPSC Announces Recall Round-up of Toys and Children's Products

Washington, D.C. - As families gather for the holidays, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is warning consumers that dangerous children's products may still be in their homes. Grandparents dust off old playpens; older children often share their toys with younger relatives; and keepsakes are

stored in old cedar chests. The CPSC wants to prevent these holiday traditions from becoming tragedies. Despite recall notices and public warnings, CPSC has found that many products with the potential to seriously injure or kill are still being used by consumers. CPSC is releasing a list of dangerous children's products over 23 million product units that might still be in people's homes. These are some of the CPSC's largest recalls or consumer alerts involving children's products over the last year. Families should check whether old products have been recalled and place them out of the reach of children. Manufacturers will usually offer a free repair kit or replacement product.

Parents can get the list of recalled products by going to the CPSC website, www.cpsc.gov, or calling toll free, 1-800-638-2772. This list identifies recalled children's products that are off store shelves but may still be lurking in attics, basements, toy boxes or closets.

